Friday, December 17 – Day 41 Diary Entry

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Today is the 41st day of my hunger strike. This year, 43,300 women will die from breast cancer. It says so right on page 733 of my World Almanac. That is an average of 118 women per day, or 1 every 12 minutes. Can one measure the physical pain and mental anguish in each breast cancer case? Should we not direct all of our positive energies towards finding a cure, and all of our negative energies towards the culprit?

Today's edition of the New York Times (Friday, December 17, 1999) contains the obituary of Cathy Hainer. I enjoyed reading Cathy's columns. She was a reporter for USA Today, and she died yesterday at the age of 38. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998, she turned to her boyfriend and said, "I'm 36 and in love. How could I possibly have cancer?" Her final column, which I read in an airport on December 6th, told the story of a letter found on the body of a soldier comparing death to the sailing of a ship.

Thousands of things cause breast cancer and it is rather common. An autopsy study published in the New York Times (11/8/94) revealed that 40% of women between the ages of 40 and 50 have breast cancer but that it is normally controlled. Science has taught us that a key factor in the growth of every breast cancer is the most powerful growth hormone in the human body, IGF-I (Lancet, 5/9/98).

IGF-I is an identical hormone between humans and cows. When cows are treated with the genetically engineered bovine growth hormone, levels of IGF-I increase by about 80%. When women drink milk, levels of IGF-I increase in their blood serum by a factor of 10%.

Cathy Hainer is dead and those who knew and loved her mourn her passing. One hundred and eighteen women will die today from the ravages of breast cancer, and few, if any, of their loved ones will know about IGF-I and the milk connection. The Food & Drug Administration knows. They have our petition. We wait for them to act.

Every day that passes another 118 women die, and we continue our hunger strike, réquesting that FDA honestly assess the real science.

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